Increasing Coconut Production in Coastal Areas of Gujarat

*166. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the possiblity of increasing production of coconut platnation in the coastal areas of Gujarat State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Research Centres to study ways of increasing productivity of coconut plantation in coastal areas of Saurashtra and Kutchh Region of Gujarat State?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, coastal areas of Gujarat State possess considerable potential for coconut production and as per state estimates, already over 15,000 hectares have been covered under the crop in the state. Coconut Board is providing assistance for new planting in the current plan.

(c) Research work being carried out at the Agriculture Research Station, Mahuwa, Distt. Bhavnagar has helped in identifying elite local variety, evaluation of other hybrids and varieties, standardising of agronomical and plant protection practices etc. for improving productivity of coconut which is being promoted among the farmers.

Recommendations of Selja Committee

*167. SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:
SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the Selja Committee recommendations with regard to the functioning of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan;

(b) whether Government have since accepted the said recommendations with or without certain modifications; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the form of the recommendations that have since been accepted?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The Review Committee, in its report of May' 95 has made 49 recommendations covering all the areas of Kendriya Vidyalayas Sangathan functioning, including its management structure, administrative, financial and academic functioning. A copy of the Report of the Review Committee including its recommendations has been placed in the Parliament Library.

The Govt, has accepted most of the recommendations made by the Review Committees. The major recommendations as accepted by the Govt, are:—

(i) The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan Board and Society should be re-organised to give better representation to Armed Force, Project Sector and similar organisations.

(ii) Delegation of powers should be reviewed to enable most of school/ regional level matters to be decided at those levels.

(iii) Vidyalaya Management Committees should be given some functional powers.

(iv) Regional Recruitment Boards should be set up to make selection of employees quick and efficient.

(v) Transfer and posting policy needs to be realigned.

(vi) Computerised information system should be set up to cover all three levels; Head-office, Regional offices and schools.

(vii) Teaching at primary level should be re-organised and made more congenial.

(viii) Home work in lower classes should be stopped, junior laboratory should be provided in all schools and grading should replace marking up class-VIII.

(ix) Zonal Training Institutes should be set up for in-service training.